

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

By Green

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Leadership, Enlightenment, Achievement, and Perseverance organization (LEAP) upon its receipt of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Growth & Impact Award in the Community Impact category.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in paying special tribute to those exemplary community organizations that combine their entrepreneurial spirit with a dedication to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such entity is Leadership, Enlightenment, Achievement, and Perseverance organization (LEAP), which has recently been honored with the Clarksville-Montgomery County Growth & Impact Award in the Community Impact category; and

WHEREAS, launched in 2008, LEAP is a nonprofit organization with a twofold mission: to be a positive, guiding force in the lives of youths and to help small businesses gain a foothold during their fledgling years; in addition to the tenets that lend the organization its primary acronym - leadership, enlightenment, achievement, and perserverance - LEAP is committed to fostering outreach, responsibility, and growth, thus sometimes referring to itself as LEAP ORG; and

WHEREAS, a true boon for many at-risk youths, LEAP has served over 1,000 individuals between the ages of eleven and eighteen since 2009; the impact the organization has had on these young people is evident. Of those who tested positive for drugs and alcohol, 81.4 percent discontinued using these substances; of those with prior criminal or delinquent offenses, 70.7 percent avoided recidivism; and

WHEREAS, LEAP assists youths in their educational and vocational endeavors, providing scholarships to high school seniors and offering services to those seeking

employment, including skills training and employment retention and personal financial management training; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the life-altering opportunities it provides to area youth, LEAP strives to cultivate the growth and development of small businesses through affordable office space, one-on-one support, mentoring, programs, and classes - services that are vital to small businesses during the early stages of their development. Since 2009, LEAP has provided affordable office space to forty-six small businesses and nonprofits; and

WHEREAS, as a result of LEAP's efforts, numerous job-creating businesses have emerged and thrived, helping to improve the region's economy and marketplace, and the youth population has been engaged and uplifted, enabling these individuals to become self-confident, self-sustaining adults who are assets to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good work of LEAP has left an indelible mark on the local community, ensuring the success of many small businesses and forever changing the trajectory of the lives of many young people, and it is fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the Leadership, Enlightenment, Achievement, and Perseverance organization (LEAP) upon its receipt of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Growth & Impact Award, expressing our gratitude for the organization's continued good works and our sincere best wishes for success in all its future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.